

TESTIMONY on SB 153

House Committee on Agriculture

**Rick L. Bean, Principal Geologist, Senior Vice President
GSI Engineering LLC**

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Good morning and thank you Chairman Highland and members of the House Committee on Agriculture for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 153 related to reporting and responding to the release of a pollutant. I am a Principal Geologist and Senior Vice President for GSI Engineering. GSI Engineering is an environmental engineering company based in Kansas that works for a variety of clients throughout the Midwest by providing emergency response and cleanup services for accidental discharges or releases of pollutants. Our clients range from small to large businesses and various governmental entities.

Accidental and unintentional spills occur on a daily basis across the United States. KDHE has reported that its Spill Program addressed over 900 reported spills during Fiscal Year 2018. GSI believes that it is critical to provide a clear and concise process to report and properly address spills including establishing minimum reporting quantities. Under the current Spill requirements, “all releases,” regardless of quantity must be reported to KDHE. This not only provides an undo burden on industry but also means that valuable resources are spent by both industry and KDHE to address small and de-minims releases that are not a risk to human health and the environment of the state. The bill will also direct the Secretary to create a one-call system for spill notifications which will provide industry with a straightforward manner to report spills.

KDHE’s Spill Program and staff provide a very important service to the citizens of the state by tracking spills and ensuring they are properly addressed in a timely manner. They have always worked with industry in a professional and fair manner. SB 153 will clarify the spill process and reportable quantities in Kansas and strengthen the KDHE’s ability to maintain and manage the Spill Program effectively. GSI supports SB 153.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the committee on SB 153.